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Home and Away

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Two new Spiritans

Saturday, August 2, 2009 was a red letter day for the TransCanada Province. For the first time in 23 years, two new members joined our group.

Robert DiNardo (left) was born in Italy but grew up in Toronto's east end where he worked as an IT professional. **Bernard Kenol** (right) was born in Haiti and came to Montreal and then to Toronto as a graphic artist and French teacher.

Four Spiritans were on hand to welcome them among us — Fathers Bernard Kelly, Assistant Novice Director; Paul McAuley, Provincial Bursar; Bob Colburn, Provincial; and Nicholas Twumasi, Vocations Director.

Robert is finishing his theology studies in Ottawa and Bernard is commencing his in Toronto after which both will be going on overseas appointments in the Dominican Republic and Ghana respectively.



Ethiopia

Vince Stegman CSSp

When we started working in Ethiopia thirty-four years ago, we decided to concentrate on education. At that time in all of Borana country there were only eleven grade schools and three high schools in an area almost the size of the state of Pennsylvania.

I'm happy to say that the Ethiopian government has improved things tremendously in the field of education since then. But we're still far behind more settled and more accessible parts of the country.

This year eight students that I supervised and helped through grade school and high school graduated from different universities.

Three will become teachers, three graduated with a degree in law, one in international relations and one in business administration.

We're especially happy for the first girl from one of our three schools to graduate from university. In Ethiopia educated girls are 'few and far between'. We consider their education very much in line with our Spiritan philosophy.

Philippines

Dan Sormani CSSp

We are a little community of three: Filipino Spiritans Dennis Paculba Casanes, 25, from Mindanao, Rick Lawrence Ang Aleria, 28, from Cebu, and me, the old guy from Brooklyn via Algeria and Pittsburgh.

Since we haven't been able to raise the money for our new home in Manila (everything about that Jesuit-owned house is just great ... except, of course, the price tag), the three of us are learning what it means to be welcomed by strangers, to be guests in another's house, to find creative ways to build a sense of community and grow.

We live in the middle of a "nun village" with a provincialate, a retirement house, formation wing, house for girls in trouble, the boarders' house, the community that runs the grade school and high school next door, and the house for visiting sisters!

There is a large round chapel in the centre and we have Eucharist every morning at 6:30a.m. I usually get up at 4:30 a.m. so I don't have to wait in line for a shower. There is only one sink on our floor, a long trough-like thing down the hall, and I have at times found myself shaving in the mirror while some college girl is trying to apply her lipstick just so. These are the moments they didn't teach us about in all our missiology classes!